

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. At the time of the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-16 were pending. Of these claims, claims 13-16 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claims 13-16 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 6 and 7 have been amended, and 17-24 have been added. Support for these amendments can be found at least on page 11, line 2 to page 12, line 23 and on page 16, line 20 to page 17, line 3. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier. Thus, claims 1-12 and 17-24 are now pending for examination.

Prior Art Rejections:

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,836,843 to Seroussi (hereinafter “Seroussi”). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite an image processing apparatus that includes “a user authentication section that acquires ID information to identify each user from among a plurality of users, and performs user authentication based on said ID information,” and “a personal information processing step that performs the processing of personal information relevant to the users corresponding to said ID information acquired by the user authentication section, wherein, in a personal operation mode, an operation screen is displayed for a user whose personal information has been processed by the personal information processing section, and wherein the operation screen displays information related to the personal information processing section.” (Independent claim 7 contains analogous features).

Seroussi fails to teach or disclose the features of the invention as claimed. In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner points out that Seroussi teaches that the badge is able to transmit a username (ID) along with other information to a computer. A computer can authenticate the user for access by comparing the information from the badge with

information stored in the computer regarding authorized badge users. (column 7, line 49 to column 9, line 49)

However, there is no teaching or disclosure in Seroussi of “a personal information processing step that performs the processing of personal information relevant to the users corresponding to said ID information acquired by the user authentication section,” as featured in the invention as claimed. Here, the invention processes personal information relevant to a user, based upon the user ID acquired from the user authentication. Seroussi fails to teach that personal information related to a user is processed. Rather, Seroussi only details the processing of information as utilized in the authentication protocol carried out between a computer and a badge. (column 7, line 49 to column 8, line 53). Seroussi further details processing information when the link between a badge and a computer is interrupted, again utilizing an authentication protocol (column 8, line 60 to column 9, line 49).

Further, there is no teaching or disclosure in Seroussi that, “in a personal operation mode, an operation screen is displayed for a user whose personal information has been processed by the personal information processing section.” (Independent claim 1; analogous features found in independent claim 7). Seroussi does not disclose an operation screen or any type of display for a user whose personal information has been processed. In fact, there is no mention or teaching of a display in Seroussi. Rather, Seroussi utilizes transceivers such as RF sensors or light-based systems to enable communication between the badge and the computer, instead of display screens. (column 10, lines 38-48) In failing to teach an operation screen that displays information for a user, Seroussi also fails to teach or disclose that the “operation screen displays information related to the personal information processing section.”

Thus, Seroussi fails to teach or disclose several features of the invention as claimed, including “a personal information processing step that performs the processing of personal information relevant to the users corresponding to said ID information acquired by the user authentication section, wherein, in a personal operation mode, an operation screen is displayed for a user whose personal information has been processed by the personal information processing section, and wherein the operation screen displays information related to the personal information processing section.” (Independent claim 1; independent claim 7

contains analogous features.) If this rejection is maintained, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where these features can be found in Seroussi.

The dependent claims are also patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim on which they ultimately depend. In addition, they recite additional patentable features when considered as a whole.

For example, added dependent claims 17-24 recite additional patentable features not found in Seroussi.

Specifically, dependent claims 17 and 21 recite that “the personal information processing section comprises an urgent information processing section that acquires one or more communications to the user that are characterized as urgent, and wherein the operation screen displays a subscreen related to the urgent information processing section.” There is no teaching or disclosure in Seroussi of such an urgent information processing section, or any corresponding display related to such a section.

Seroussi also fails to teach or disclose the “schedule information processing section that acquires one or more schedules associated with the ID information of the user, and wherein the operation screen displays a subscreen related to the schedule information processing section” of dependent claims 18 and 22.

Dependent claims 19 and 22 recite “a time record information processing section that manages arrival and departure information of one or more employees in a time record management server in cooperation with the ID information of the user, and wherein the operation screen displays a subscreen related to the time record information processing section.” There is no teaching or disclosure in Seroussi of such a time record information processing section or any related display.

Seroussi also fails to teach or disclose “an unread information processing section that acquires one or more communications that have been characterized as unread with the authentication of the ID information of the user, and wherein the operation screen displays a subscreen related to the unread information processing section,” as featured in dependent claims 20 and 24.

Conclusion:

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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